

HUMBLE PETITION

SIR LEWIS STUCLEY

1618



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STUCLEY(Sir Lewis) The humble petition and information of
Sir Lewis Stucley, Knight Vice-admirall of Deuon, touching
his owne behaviour in the charge committed vnto him, for
the bringing up of Sir Walter Raleigh, and the scandalous
aspersions cast upon him for the same.

B.Norton and J.Bill 1618

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TO THE KINGS

most Excellent Maiestie.

The humble petition and information of *Sir Lewis Stucley, Knight, Vice-admirall of Deuon, touching his owne behaviour in the charge committed vnto him, for the bringing vpon of Sir Walter Raleigh, and the scandalous aspersions cast vpon him for the same.*



Being deterred by your Maiesties more important affaires, from any hope of redresse of those scarres cast vpon my reputation by *Sir Walter Raleigh* at his death, without some remonstrance of the businesse made by

my selfe; I haue presumed to offer to your most

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Excellent Maiestie, a iust defence of my carriage
in that affaire: Wherein as I hold it the part of
an honest man, to preferre publique duety be-
fore priuate affection; so I cannot but keepe the
heart of a Gentleman, which is euer more sensi-
ble of a wound giuen to his reputation, then to
his life. I haue noe pleasure to fight with a ghost:
But seeing an Angel of darkenesse, did put on
him the shape of an Angel of light at his de-
parture, to performe two Parts most cunningly;
First, to poison the hearts of discontented people;
Secondly, to blemish me in my good name, a
poore instrument of the iust desires of the State,
with false imputations: Giue mee leaue, most
Gracious Souereigne, to speake for my selfe;
which I doe not to insult vpon the dead, but to
defend my selfe against the false reports of the li-
ving, taken from the dead vpon trust, to strike
me directly, but through my sides indirectly, ay-
ming at a higher marke. All men haue long
knownen, that this mans whole life was a meere
fopification, and such was his death, in which
hee borrowed some tincture of holinesse, which
he was thought not to loue in his life, there-
with to couer his hatred of others in his death.
As it appeareth, that being moued by the Deane
of *Westminster*, and thereupon promising chari-
tie to mee in the prison, doth thus vent his hatred
on the Seaffold, in shew of charitie to the liuing,
to take heed of so dangerous a man. An vncha-
ritable

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ritable charitie, not much vnlike that mans repentance, who purposing to hang himselfe, writes his repentance of that sinne before hand in his booke, which he did purpose to commit.

Yet will not I take vpon me to iudge of his last repentance, I leaue him vnto God, to whom hee stands or falls; but I would he had giuen a better signe of it, then by godly words at his death to gather credit to himselfe to worke vpon the compassion of men, thereby to infuse more warily the venome of sedition into the hearts of as many as hee might; and to gaine reputation vpon his Soueraigne, but to spend his malice vpon mee your poore seruant, who did nothing, but execute your iust Commands, with the perill of my life. Witnesse his open inuitation of diuers to his death, wherein hee meant, as in his last Will and Testament, to leaue a Legacie of his hatred vnto me, to be executed vpon me by them to my destruction.

But it is nothing in respect of his generall end, to spread by them whom hee had inuited; the contagion of his seditious humour vnto others, which the euent doth manifest: That it growes verie questionable, whether this man did more hurt by his life, or by his death: By his life through his ill example; By his death through his false testimony to traduce the Iustice & instruments of the State. Yea but it was the testimony of a dying man; how a penitent (as al say)

as some say, a Saint, euen then when as himselfe said, it was no time to flatter or feare Princes: yea, but it was the testimony of an enemy, of a periur'd, of a condemned man. First, of an enemy, and of an angrie enemy, euen with your Maiestie that would haue iustice executed on him, vpon his originall condemnation, who were satisfied, as he publikely did speake of his innocencie in that cause, as priuately before hee bewrayed his deepe discontentment, when it was vrged, that the testimony of the Lord *Cobham* was neuer retracted, Sir *Walter Raleigh* did peremptorily denie it. To whom answer was made, that then the publike Act registred in the Counsell booke would manifest it, for there it appeares. So faine would this man cast aspersiō vpon your Iustice for taking the life of an innocent in that cause, wherein hee was condemned by his Countrey. When this would not serue his turne, then did hee flie to the Commission of a generall; pleading it as an implicit pardon of that former offence: Not considering that being already a man condemned for treason, he was, as the learned in the Law held, vncapable of another triall, by which hee might haue been found as *Nocent* as before. For he hauing a Commission, to goe into those parts of *America*, vnpossessed by any Christian Prince in league with your Maiestie, and no where else, either to plant or trade, hee made his designe for the Riuer of
Oreonoque

Oreonoque, where hee knew the Subiects of the King of *Spain* were already planted, which, as he confessed vnder his hand to your Maiestie, hee concealed from you; and this vnder pretence of his gold Mine, which he did apparantly to this end, to breake the League, and to imbroyle the two States. Many Generals haue for exceeding their Commisfions beene punished, euen for good seruices: how then could he haue escaped, for this his disseruice, being against his Commisfion, if hee might by the law haue beene tryed vpon it? Its cleere then, that he was angry with your Maiestie for commaunding Iustice to bee done vpon him: how then could hee chuse but be angry with mee the poore Instrument who brought him backe to Iustice, from whence hee intended often to make an escape?

First at Sea, vpon his returne, making motion to be set on shore in *France*, and to quit his Ship to his company on that condition; for the which hee was blocked vp in his Cabin a moneth together, as himselfe hath confessed vnto mee, and is to be prooued by diuers of his company: By which it is cleere againe, that out of his guiltinesse, he did not so much trust in your goodnesse, as hee saide on the Scaffold hee did too much, or else he had not suffered death. Next at *Plymouth*, after hee was by your Maiesties speciall command, committed to my keeping; hee plotted with two *French* Captaines; by name with Cap-
taine

taine *Flory*, and Captaine *Le Grand*, to escape in
 one of their shippes, then there in harbour, as he
 then confessed to the Lords Commissioners, it
 beeing first euidently prooued against him; by
 which it appeareth againe, hee did not trust your
 Maiesties goodnesse, as he writte and said at his
 death. But I am sure by this he did much wrong
 my kindnesse, to my vndooing, had not the
 goodnesse of heauen preuented him. Next hee
 plotted his escape at *Salisbury*; which my worthy
 Cozen *William Herbert* first discovered to your
 Maiestie. Last vpon the same Saturday when I
 receiued your Maiesties Commission, by my
 Cozen *Herbert*, by whom also I receiued intelli-
 gence, that at that instant, he was flying from my
 custody without my priuity; not hauing as yet
 made him any semblance of condiscient, so that I
 almost came on him at vnawares, euen at the in-
 stant that hee was putting on his false beard, and
 his other disguisements: Which declares hee
 did still distrust your goodnesse; doubtlesse out
 of the conscience of his guiltinesse, whatsoeuer
 he writte or saide to the contrary. And is it any
 maruaile then, that he was angry with mee at his
 death, for bringing him backe? Besides, that bee-
 ing a man, as he was thought, of so great a Wit,
 it was no small grieffe, that a man of so meane a
 wit as I, should bee thought to goe beyond him.
 Yea, but you should not haue vsed such craft to
 goe beyond him; No? *Sic ars deluditur arte. Ne-
 que*

que enim lex iustior vlla est quam necis artifices arte perire sua. But why did not you execute your Commission barely to his apprehension on him in his house? Why? my Commission was to the contrary, to discover his other pretensions, and to seaze his secret papers, &c. And can any honest Subject question mine honesty, in the performance of such a Commission, which tended to the discovery of the secret intentions of an ill affected heart to my Soueraigne? How can any dislike this in mee, and not bewray his owne dishonest heart, vnto the State? Yea, but though another might haue done this, yet how might you doe it, beeing his kinsman and his friende? Surely if I had beene so, yet in a publique imployment, and trust laid vpon mee, I was not to refuse it, much lesse to prefer priuate kindnesse or amity, before my publique duety and loyalty: For what did I know the dangerous consequence of these matters, which were to bee discovered? or who knowes them yet, of those that make themselues my competent Iudges? But if there were no kindred or amity betweene vs, as I auow there neuer was, what bond then might tie me to him, but the tie of compassion of his miserie? which was in my Soueraignes heart to distribute, when hee saw time, that did command mee, and not in the dispensation of mee, nor of any other instruments power, that is to bee commanded. Hitherto I haue prooued hee was angry, both

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with

with your Maieſty, & with my ſelfe, and therefore his testimony ought not to be of any force againſt me. It followeth next to proue, that his proteſtations and oathes, concerning others were falſe, both before he came to the Scaffold, and vpon the Scaffold. Before, againſt Queene *Elizabeth* of infinite famous memory, who aduanced him with great fauour from the duſt. For one day my ſelfe vpbrayding him with the notorious extreame iniury he did my father, in deceiuing him of a great aduenture which my ſayd father had in the *Tyger*, when hee went to the *weſt Indies* with my Vnkle Sir *Richard Grenuill*; which was by his owne confeſſion worth fifty thouſand pound: which came all to his hands, my fathers portion at the leaſt being tenne thouſand pound that hee might lawfully clayme: Hee answered that the Queene howſoeuer ſhe ſeemed a great good miſtreſſe vnto him in the eyes of the world, yet was ſo vniuſt and tyrannous vnto him, that ſhe layde the enuie aſwell of this, as of many other her oppreſſions vpon him: and that ſhee tooke all the pearle in a Cabinet vnto her ſelfe, without euer giuing him ſo much as one pearle. This hee ſwore to me, and to Captaine *Pennington*, he did ſo baſely and barbarouſlie raile vpon that our moſt excellent Queene oftentimes, as hee can atteſt, that no man hath cauſe to beleeuue his oath againſt others, that would breake his oath of Allegiance to ſo excellent a miſtreſſe, that had rayſed

sed him from such meannesse to such greatnesse,
as we of his countrey did well know.

Now that hee swore that he was not guiltie of
the plotting of the Earle of *Essex* death, nor did
insult vpon him being dead, there is a Gentleman
of worth, which about that time came from out
of a long captiuitie, which hee had suffered in
Spaine, who touched at *Sherborne*, and Sir *Walter*
Raleigh asked him, What they said in *Spaine* of
Essex death: He answered, They heard not of it
there: But that he was sory he heard in the *Iland*
voyage, That the Earle had brought him to his
mercy. To which Sir *Walter Raleigh* answered,
But I trust I am now quittance with him; which
this Gentleman is ready to attest. Besides, in his
Letters written to others, hee did ordinarily vp-
braid him, That hee died like a Crauen: and in
another, That the great boy dyed like a Calfe:
And he was often heard to say, That he died like
a foole, and like a coward: So persecuting his
ghost, and insolently trampling in his ashes;
that it thence grew into many mens mouths;
That it was better to be a liuing dogge, then a
dead Lyon. But a more euident demonstration
there cannot be of any thing, then that an olde
Warder of the Tower will depose, that hee saw
Sir *Walter Raleigh* the night before the Earles suf-
fering, with his footman onely with him, to come
to the Tower, and heard him giue strait in-
structions to the *Lieutenant* of the Tower

for execution of the Warrant, for that worthy Lords execution, which shortly followed him. Whether then he forswore not himselfe euen at his death for publique applause, about the not plotting the destruction, and not insulting on the death of that most noble Earle, and excellent Saint of God; whose Christian humilitie and charitie, if Sir *walter* had followed, hee had not called his repentance and Saintship so farre into question, as now he hath done, and so seditiously haue poisoned the hearts of discontented people, nor so maliciously wounded the reputation of an honest Subiect: Who vpon iust reason, beleeuing the disloyall and dishonourable wordes spoken by such a proude vassall against your sacred person to *Monsieur Manourij*, as other his disloyall deeds which hee intended against you: That if he had escaped, he was like to prooue as dangerous a Traitor to this Crowne, as euer *Antonio de Peres* was to the Crowne of *Spaine*; tooke them to heart, and performed my best deuoyer to bring him vnto Iustice. But whether, I say, hee forswore not himselfe in these things, I referre my selfe to them that are better acquainted with the Tragoedie of that time.

Not to forget in the end, that which hee confessed himselfe vnto me and others, that he tooke an oath vpon the Bible to his Company, which he purposed to breake; which periury, his Lady hath said, was the cause of all his ruine. And
what

what interpretatiō can my greatest enemy make of his oath, which voluntarily he swore vnto my selfe in the *Lieutenants* dining chamber, the Wednesday after his commitment; which was, That he loued me as well, as any friend he had in the world; to which I haue substantiall witnesse. But in all these things he vsed an æquiuocation, as he doeth in these things now concerning me. To which I answered in generall once for all, Sir *Nicholas Throgmorton*, father to his wife, was thought iustly to except against the testimonie of one *Vaughan*, brought against him, because he was a condemned man: And may not I then except against the testimonie of Sir *Walter Raleigh*, vrged against me vpon the Scaffold, coming from an Outlaw after Iudgement, euen in a case of high Treason? Yet to answer in particular to the points, hee sayth first; I neuer did receiue aduice from my Lo. *Carew* to make mine escape. And I doe now verely belecue he neuer did receiue any such aduice, as I euer said to the Lords: But that *Raleigh* tolde it vnto *Stucley*, yea, and that many times, I will auow it vnto death, and take the Sacrament vpon it.

To the second; I neuer named my Lord *Hay*, and my Lo. *Carew*, in other wordes and sence, then as my honourable friends: amongst other Lords my honourable friends. That is very true, and I would the rest of his Honourable friends vnderstood how farre he named them, as

well as I doe. But as euer I beleueed, that he did abuse their Honourable names, to seduce mee, and to draw me to his purpose : So did I promise to my selfe, that some of the chiefe of them being ioyned in the bond either of blood or affinitie with mee, a poore Gentleman, would be a comfort vnto me in the way of my loyaltie, and renounce the testimonie of such a disloyall man, that was neuer true to any, but to himselfe. There is no mans displeasure can further hurt me, then hee hath threatned me, That if I reuealed the things he tolde me in priuate, I should die for it. And die for this cause I am content, so it be not by an affacinate : But whensoever I die, there shall die your Maiesties faithfull and loyall seruant, and one that will part with his blood at as deere a rate as he can.

For the third, concerning the shewing of a letter to mee about money, his wife if shee were put to her oath, can tell whether it were so or no. But vnder the former protestation, I auow it to be true, that he shewed me such a letter ; though I thinke it not true what the letter spake. I omit his periury in swearing hee had no designe for Fraunce ; when as *Sir Iohn Fearne*, and Captaine *Penington* are able to testifie vpon their oathes, that hee often told them hee had commission to stand them in stead from the High Admirall of France, which confirms the testimony of M. *Mannowry*, who saw the Commission at Plimouth

mouth, as he will depose it. I vrge not his periury in that Article concerning Sir *Iohn Fearn*, that he neuer had it in his thought to goe from *Trinidado*, to leaue his company : which Sir *Iohn Fearn* is ready to prooue , by the deposition of 60. persons , that Sir *Walter* propounded it vnto them, whatsoeuer he intended. And therefore how this man equiuocates at his death, all the world may see. O barbarous cruelty , to leaue so many gentlemen, when hee had secretly heard that his son was dead, to the mercy of their enemies, without hope or meanes to returne. Where hee also perswaded Captain *Penington* to goe away, who answered him , hee would rather die then lay the guilt vpon his soule, of the death of so many gentlemen : But if I would , you lately swore you haue no money left, quoth Captaine *Penington*, without which wee cannot victuall at *Virginia* ; Tut, whatsoeuer I swore (sayd Sir *Walter*) I haue 300. pieces in a corner at a dead list ; as he confessed also to the Lords that he gaue one hundred and fifty pieces to his company to come home: And how then can that be true , which he swore at his death, that hee carried but 60. pieces with him, and brought home neere the same summe. Certainly periury was but a *Peccadillio* with this man, which he shewed also towards me, when he protested that I perswaded him to goe to Sir *Edward Parrhams* fathers house , which is most untrue: For Sir *Walter Raleigh* hauing a secret intention,

tion, which afterwarde appeared to play the mountbanke at *Salisbury* to pretend the taking of a doze of poyson, by which hee deceiued mee first, that by me he might deceiue others, which was a most base vnmanly part; thought Sir *Edward Parrhams* fathers house, whom he thought to bee a Papist, to bee a fit subiect of suspicion, which hee meant to cast vpon his friend, who had so louingly and worthily entertained vs. For, sayd Sir *walter*, though the Gentleman would not hurt mee, yet there might bee Priests or Iesuites there that did it: For I remember after my mornings draught, of a cuppe of Ale, which Sir *Edward Parrham* offred me in the Hall, I felt presently a kinde of exco-riation in mine Intralls, as if some Iesuit had beene the Butler. Now when I saw the pustales breake out vpon him at *Salisbury*, my Compassion I confesse was too credulous to report from his mouth so much, wherein I made no lie, but told a lie: *Non mentientis astu, sed compassionis affectu*, which hath beene ill requited by him to whom I shewed it. But I am heartily sory for it, that being so farre abused as I was, I should wrong my true kinsman, which mooued mee after to no small iust indignation against Sir *walter*, who had thus abused vs both. When I heard of his often purposes to escape to mine vndoing, to draw him forward to it, which hee intended of himselfe by making of a lie, *Non amore*

amore mendacij, sed officij, the rather because hee had inuegled mee to hurt my kinsman by telling of alie, which I doubt that Diuinitie would not beare but reason of State, (as the best Philosophers doe hold) doth beare it to bee lawfull to lie for the discouerie of Treason to doe seruice to the common wealth. Yea, but they say, that hee hath not left so sufficient a man behinde him, and that therefore his death is a losse to the common-wealth; I doubt much of both. But no man denies, but he had many sufficiēcies in him: But what were these; but so many weapons of practise and danger to the State, if hee escaped, being so deeply tainted in so many points of discontent, dishonesty, and disloyaltie? He knew, as he writ, that as in nature, so in policy, *A priuatione ad habitum non fit regressio*, and therefore being desperate of any fortune heere, agreeable with the height of his minde, who can doubt, but he would haue made vp his fortune elsewhere vpon any termes against his Soueraigne and Countrey? No *Coriolanus* heart could bee more vindicative, then he was vnto them to whom he did impute his fault. Yea, but hee died most resolutely: Yea, but hee was taken most sheepishly. Neuer was there man out of the conscience of his owne corruption and guiltinesse so cowed at his taking, as he was; trembling and weeping to come before Iustice. Yea but he gathered his spirits afterwards, and died resolutely. Euen so

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hath

hath many a Iesuite done at *Tyburne*; a cancred enemy to God and his Soueraigne : But with this difference, that they died in hope of false Martyrdom, and this with a desire of a false popular fame.

But he died like a Saint too : Hee hath before verie much called his Saintshippe into dispute by the carriage of his life : Wee may now iudge of it, by that hee did a night before his death, who after his Conferences with the *Deane* of Westminster, for his better instruction, and preparation of his soule for God, called the Keeper of the Gatehouse (*Master weekes*) to him, and was curiously inquisitiue to know, whether hee had any *Romish* Priests vnder his charge, and custodie, and what they were ; but vpon his answer (that he had not any) whether hee mistrusted that *Master weekes* would not deale plainely with him, or would not bee true vnto him, hee presently surceased from any further Inquisition of that matter ; which whether it might proceed of an irresolution in the Religion wherein hee professed himselfe to die, or out of a popular affectation to insinuate and applie himselfe to all factions, I leaue it to the censure of the Iudicious Reader, and of such as best obserued the whole *Scene* of his action vpon the Scaffold. But to go further, they say he died like a Souldier & a Saint, & therfore then to be beleeued, not only against me, but against the attestation

tion of the State. O wicked times, to say no more!
 But my hope is that Religion and the feare of
 God, and the conscience of my duty and loyaltie
 to your Maiestie, will sway more, with the most
 and best, by that time men shall from the State be
 better informed. *Opinionum commenta delebit
 dies, veritatis iudicia confirmabit,* saith Tully. VVher-
 fore I doe heere make two most humble petitions
 to your most excellent Maiestie. First, that see-
 ing I your poore loyall Subiect am burthened
 and oppressed, with the Testimony of a bitter
 enemy, of a periurd and condemned man,
 which is against all reason, conscience, and law:
 That I may haue your Maiesties leaue to the
 confirmation of the truth, which I haue avowed
 to be sufficient; to receiue the Sacrament vpon
 it in your Maiesties Chappell: AT the next is, that
 your Maiestie will be so gracious vnto mee, as to
 suffer a declaration to come forth from the State,
 for the cleering of these matters, and further satis-
 faction of the world: By which it may appeare,
 that the Iustice of God, and the Iustice of the
 King, did neuer better meete together in one
 man: Which my iust and humble request, I hope
 your Maiestie will not deny to

*Your Maiesties loyall Subiect
 and Seruant,*

LEVVES STVCLEY.



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